

THE LEMON GROVE REVIEW



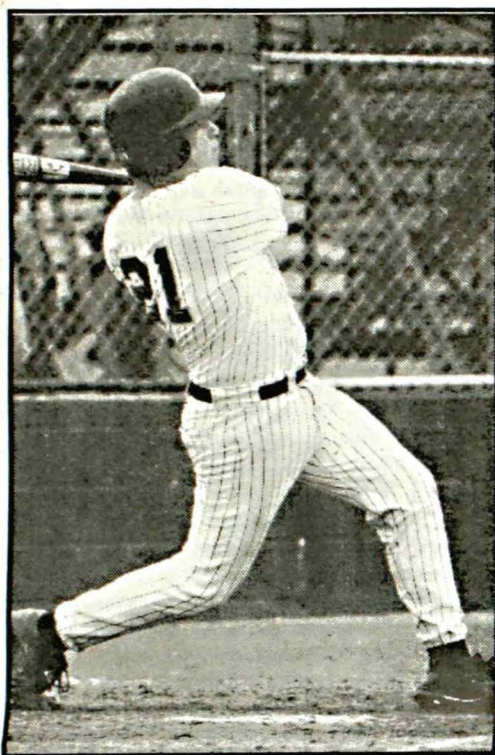
Vol. 50, No. 62

Serving Lemon Grove and nearby communities

Tuesday, March 24, 1998 25c

El Cap finally 'avenges' CIF semifinal loss to USDHS Dons

by Greg Eichelberger



El Cap first baseman Nick Priest belts a third inning pitch over the fence to give the Vaqueros a 4-0 lead in game against USDHS on March 17 at El Capitan.

Photo by Greg Eichelberger

Poised just one win away from a third straight trip to the CIF Division II baseball finals against Mission Bay High last May, the El Capitan Vaqueros had that dream shattered when the team was upset by the University of San Diego High, 2-1, in the semis. The Dons then went on to lose to the Pirates, 3-2, in a thrilling affair that El Cap felt it should have participated in.

It was a loss that coach Steve Vickery and his returning players thought about all year long, right up until last Tuesday. That is when the two teams faced each other under overcast skies at Hostetler Field in Lakeside, with the home team coming away with a 5-1 triumph, that, although about nine months too late, was nevertheless satisfying.

"We really wanted this one," said Vickery, who, on March 12, had notched his 300th win as his squad spanked Chula Vista, 12-1 (he subsequently won his 301st over San Marcos two days later).

"I didn't say too much about the semifinal loss to our guys, but they all remembered it. They were anxious to prove that we have the better team," he added.

That verdict, however, didn't come until the third inning when the Vaqs jumped on the opposing pitcher for two walks, two hits (including an RBI single by shortstop Kevin Nulton) and a long sacrifice fly by third sacker Brian Jenkins. The result was a three-run cushion for starter Randy Perez (1-1), who was setting down the Dons left and right.

A 350-foot launch off the bat of first baseman Nick "The Babe" Priest with one out in the third made the score 4-0 and settled the contest, for all practical purposes. But in baseball, the old axiom of "It's never over 'til it's over" proved right once again. Perez was sailing along until, with two outs in the fifth, he surrendered a hit and two walks to load the bases.

Vickery then decided to pull his starter and insert middle reliever Scott Shoemaker on the hill. "Normally we're confident with our long relief," he said after the game.

But, when Shoemaker's first toss was a wild one, allowing Uni to score its only run, and advance the runners to second and third, the 14-year skipper was in a tizzy.

The lanky senior pitched out of the frame, barely, when a Don batter crushed a line drive that went right into the glove of second baseman Garrett Mann, ending the threat. A few feet higher, though, and it could have been a whole different story.

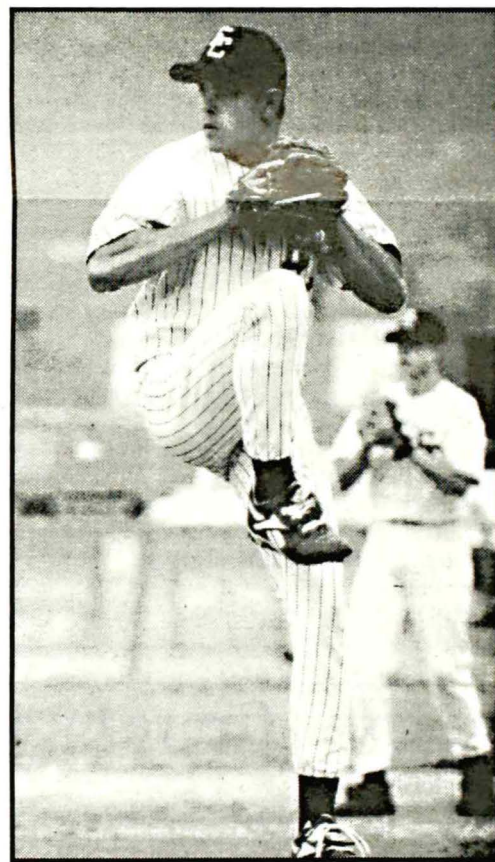
Closer Keith Smith worked a scoreless seventh to preserve the hard-fought win, although, he, also, needed a little divine intervention. Shoemaker had walked the first batter, and went 2-0 on the second when Vickery made another change. Smith, with an instant disadvantage, then gave this man a free pass. A force-out at second put runners at the corners, and with two down, the Uni batsman belted a ball to deep center field where Mario Knorr's

running effort flagged it down for the final out.

Perez, who struck out seven in his 5 2/3 innings of work, benefitted greatly from the defense behind him, as had Shoemaker and Smith.

Terrific field play by Mann, Jenkins, Nulton and rookie catcher Josh Hill, as well as the offensive prowess of Nulton and Priest, helped, not only avenge a bitter loss, but cemented El Cap's reputation as one of the toughest clubs in the county.

"I think we have a terrific team," said Vickery. "We're not as potent offensively as some squads I've coached in the past, but I believe we really have a coherent group that feels like they can take on anyone in San Diego. You get better by playing good teams, and USDHS is a good team."



Senior Andy Perez pitched the Vaqueros to 5-1 win over visiting USDHS on March 17 by going 5-2/3 innings and striking out seven.

Photo by Greg Eichelberger

East County AYSO league champs compete at sectional

by Michael Krawczak

Just one week after competing in the rescheduled San Diego County Tri-Area Tournament, East County's AYSO league champions took their games to the next higher level at the Sectional Tournament in Irvine, March 7-8.

The six divisions were divided into two pools of four teams each, with teams playing each of their pool opponents. The two pool winners then faced off for the section title. As expected, the competition was much tougher for every team.

The Div. 3 Boys La Mesa Psychopaths opened with a 2-1 win over Garden Grove, and followed with a 1-1 tie against Paradise Hills in a rematch of the Tri-Area championship game.

Controlling its own destiny and needing a win over Wilmington to advance to the final, the Psychopaths fell short, 4-0.

Coach John McMack singled out the play of Mike Iafe in keeping the team together throughout the tournament.

Since opening the fall season by winning the Mount Helix Labor Day Tournament last September, the Psychopaths completed play as a team with an overall 24-3-2 record.

The El Cajon Smurfs lost each of its Div. 3 Girls pool games, 4-1 to Irvine, 4-1 to Spring Valley and 4-2 to Cerritos. "The teams up there were just better," acknowledged Coach Bob Gellner.

The Div. 4 Boys La Mesa Stingers began tournament action with a 4-1 victory over Newport Beach, behind a hat trick by Joshua Cavanaugh.

In game two, La Mesa played Tier-rasanta to a 2-2 tie.

The Stingers also held its fate in its own hands going into the final pool game against Santa Ana, but lost, 5-1. "They were awesome," Stingers Coach Dave Cavanaugh said, of the Santa Ana squad.

Cavanaugh singled out goalkeeper Shane Whitney for some incredible saves in one-on-one situations.

The Div. 4 Girls Alpine Extreme went undefeated at Irvine, but its win over Huntington Beach and ties against Cerritos and Irvine in pool play were only good enough for second place, and the team did not advance to the final.

Still, Extreme did the "best any Alpine team has done in 20 years," said a proud Coach David Waitley, adding, "We were the small town team up there."

In Div. 5 Boys, Santee Galaxy tied Bonita 1-1, and lost its two other pool games, 4-0 and 7-0.

Coach Cliff McCarley credited goalkeeper Gabe Calloway with salvaging the tie by defending 12 point-blank shots. John Basnight scored Galaxy's only goal. "The boys had a good time," McCarley stated, but noted that we couldn't seem to generate offense.

The La Mesa Diamondbacks lost its three Div. 5 Girls pool contests, ending its title hopes.

With no East County teams qualifying for the Tri-Sectional Tournament, this truly and finally marked the end of the line for these six outstanding teams that formed seven months ago.

Bring on Spring Soccer!

Singing Hills' Willow Glen picked as the 1998 Golf Course of the Year

Singing Hills Willow Glen golf course has been chosen the Golf Course of the Year by the National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA).

First awarded in 1996, the award was created to recognize a single course that demonstrates dedication to the game of golf, as well as active community involvement.

The award recognizes a course for excellence in four specific categories: exceptional quality of the course, exemplary course management, outstanding contributions to the surrounding community and superlative promotion of the game.

According to Tom Addis, director of golf at Singing Hills, the award is a reflection of the Singing Hills' management and staff's commitment to the community.

In 1981, when a massive flood destroyed Willow Glen and the other two courses at Singing Hills, the owners refused to close the resort's doors.

In recognition of the value of the community to Singing Hills and the importance of the courses to the surrounding area, the owners rebuilt the courses, using the disaster as an opportunity to improve irrigation and maintenance programs against future flood damage.

Principals hotline available for parents to call for advice

On April 5, 6 and 7, parents who would like information and advice on their children's education are invited to call a school principal on the National Principals' Hotline. Hotline hours will be 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. on April 5, 5 a.m. - 5 p.m. on April 6 and 5 a.m. - 11 a.m. on April 7. The hotline number is 1-800-944-1601.

Sometimes parents find it's easier to talk long-distance with an anonymous person. The Hotline has been in existence for nine years. The three-day event links elementary school principals and psychologists with parents from around the nation who call in, toll-free.

"In many cases, it's not just the expertise families are seeking, it's the anonymity," said Samuel G. Sava, executive director of the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP). "Our Hotline helps parents feel free to ask difficult questions, or to bring up school-related problems that their children may be having."

Parents talk about everything from reading, homework, discipline or teaching problems to testing policies, learning difficulties, school readiness and holding students back a grade. In addition to parents, the 1,000 or so annual callers are grandparents, teachers, students and others who care for and about children. More information and answers to the most commonly asked questions are in a free brochure, "On Call for Kids," available by calling the hotline.

School psychologists from the National Association of School Psychologists will also take calls at the hotline number to offer specialized advice beyond education and child rearing.

NAESP co-sponsors the hotline with Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association (TIAA-CREF) and Family Circle Magazine. The National Principals' Hotline coincides with NAESP's annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., attended by 6,000 K-8 principals. Approximately 150 principals volunteer for two-hour hotline shifts during the meeting.

Established in 1921, the NAESP serves 28,000 K - 8 educators in the United States, Canada and overseas.

Community Notes

Student exchange program seeks host families

American Intercultural Student Exchange is currently accepting applications from families across the U.S. who are interested in hosting a foreign exchange student for the upcoming school year.

Families may choose to host a student for a full year, or a semester. These high school students, all proficient in the English language, will arrive in the United States this fall and attend local high schools, while living as members of their American host families.

All AISE students have completed a lengthy screening and interview process with representatives in their home countries, and come highly recommended by school principals, counselors and teachers.

Host families provide students with a bed, meals and a loving family atmosphere. AISE provides students and their host families with counseling and support throughout the exchange experience and all students have medical insurance and spending money for the duration of their stay.

Each year, thousands of families across the United States host AISE exchange students. AISE currently works with high school students from over 45 countries world wide. AISE is a nationwide, nonprofit organization dedicated to the belief that foreign student exchange is a vital step toward peace among all nations.

For further information on hosting an AISE student in your home, call 1-800-SIBLING or visit the AISE web site at <http://www.sibling.org>.

Lemon Grove Fire Log

March 7, 1998

8000 blk. Broadway Ave. Difficulty breathing.
3500 blk. Sweetwater Way. Choking victim.
7400 blk. Broadway Ave. Evaluate for the Sheriff.
3700 blk. Corona St. Extinguished fire.

March 8, 1998

3700 blk. Fairway Dr. Residential structure fire.
3200 blk. Lemon Grove Ave. Vehicle accident.
1900 blk. Sonoma Ln. Fuel spill.
1400 blk. La Corta Cir. Difficulty breathing.
1800 blk. El Prado Ave. Difficulty breathing.

March 9, 1998

1400 blk. La Corta Cir. Seizure.
4000 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Chest pains.
1700 blk. Englewood Dr. Fall.

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Paul Treske, Betty Jo Tucker

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Material can be sent via e-mail at the following address: yscmr@adnc.com.

All materials must be received by the Monday preceding the date of publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Advertising

All advertising is subject to current rate card. The publisher reserves the right to reject an advertiser's order.

Only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance.

Send all correspondence to: Forum Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 127, Lemon Grove, CA 91946

Lemon Grove Almanac

1994 Population: 25,100
Incorporated: 1977
Area: 3.75 sq. mi.
Median income: \$34,399
1996-97 city budget: 26.3 million
1996 taxable sales: \$265 million

Mayor: Mary Teresa Sessom
Council: Thomas Clabby
Craig Lake
Dwight Shelley
Jeff Jandura

City Manager: Doug Yount
Planning Director: Linda Niles
City Attorney: Gloria McLean
City Clerk: Christine Taub
Sheriff's Capt.: Yolanda Collins
Fire Chief: vacant

Congressional district:
52nd - Duncan Hunter
State Senate district:
40th - Steve Peace
State Assembly district:
77th - Steve Baldwin

Supervisory district:
2nd - Dianne Jacob

Libraries: 1
Post offices: 1
Parks: 4
Recreation centers: 1

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Commentary *Rider filing to affect stadium issue?*

by Joe Naiman

At the end of May, the Padres will be on top of the National League West and possibly have the best record in Major League baseball.

This is not trash talk. The Padres will be doing whatever it takes to have the best team in baseball two months into the season.

Unless the Padres win the pennant, the 1998 season will best be remembered for the stadium controversy. The November election will determine whether voters want to move Major League Baseball from Mission Valley to downtown San Diego.

Only the city of San Diego's voters can cast ballots on the downtown stadium, so, those in the eastern and northern inland suburbs, who would have distance added to their trips and who live far away from the central city, won't be in that electoral pool.

But, they will be casting ballots for the county treasurer-tax collector race, and the presence of stadium funding opponent Richard Rider in that election gives suburban voters an outlet if they wish to protest a proposed downtown ballpark.

The conditions for a publicly-financed downtown ballpark include no sales or property tax increase. But, for baseball fans in the eastern and northern inland area, the extra mileage translates into a cost increase. Fluctuating gas prices make the cost of the extra 12-14 mile round trip difficult to calculate, but at the standard deduction/reimbursement rate of 31 cents per mile, the additional costs factors to about \$4 a game, about \$50 for fans who attend a dozen games and over \$300 for the season ticket holder in the suburbs. Relocation to downtown is not a good move for baseball fans east or north of Mission Valley.

This frustration makes it impossible to dismiss Rider as a candidate who has no chance. This will be his sixth election. In three Congressional races and as the 1994 Libertarian candidate for governor of California, he received the typical single-digit third-party results, but in his one non-partisan race he received 18 percent of the vote for the county Board of Supervisors Third District seat and finished third in the primary, behind city council members from San Diego and Encinitas.

In a non-partisan race, the "wasted vote" issue doesn't hurt Libertarians. In fact, Rider will quite probably be targeted by an organization called CELLO, which stands for Committee to Elect Local Libertarian Officeholders. That organization has been successful in electing Libertarians to city council seats in the past, and if CELLO deems him the candidate with the best shot of earning a seat in the June primary, he'll likely get financial support from Libertarians across the state.

In the treasurer-tax collector election, the Libertarian position on drugs and prostitution won't be a threat to voters as it can be in county supervisor or city council races, especially with a candidate like Rider who doesn't emphasize such issues, but merely feels that freedom from government intervention shouldn't apply only to small businesses.

The other drawback against Libertarians is name recognition, and in Rider's case this will be to his favor. In 1992, he had some name recognition from his successful lawsuit against the sales tax increase, but he was running in the Third Supervisorial District against officials who were also well-known in that area. This time, he's running against the city treasurers of San Diego and Carlsbad, neither of whom are as well-known outside the city limits as is Rider.

And, this time, Rider's name recognition won't suffer the problem he had in 1992, when he ran as Dick Rider and many of his campaign signs were removed to resurface in homosexual neighborhoods outside the third district.

He may be a protest candidate, but he's also a legitimate candidate. With primary challenges for senator and governor, the treasurer-tax collector race will be a low-profile one and voter familiarity with Rider's name could make the difference.

The variable, then, is whether that familiarity is a positive one or a negative one. For those in the suburbs who feel that the Padres moving to downtown is almost as bad as moving to Virginia, a vote for Rider expresses dissatisfaction with the proposed downtown park, even among those who would support public funding of a more centrally-located stadium.

The ballot measure for a new downtown stadium means that the Padres will not only have to prove themselves to be worth keeping, but worth the trip downtown for Padres fans. The value of the Padres, rather than the belief in public funding for stadiums, will be the deciding factor on Election Day.

The presence of Rider in the treasurer-tax collector race moves Election Day up. There's still the November stadium election, as well as a runoff election in his race, if nobody gets a majority of the vote. But now, there are two elections, and one has a tougher electorate. The Padres have to prove their worth, not only in the fall, but also in the first third of the season.

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College play brings 'winds of change' for Paul Wardell

by Joe Naiman

Paul Wardell will continue to have a problem with consistency at Point Loma Nazarene College, even though it's not the El Capitan graduate's fault.

Ballparks close to large bodies of water such as Chicago's Wrigley Field, San Francisco's 3Com Stadium/Candlestick Park and the late Cleveland Municipal Stadium tend to create wind conditions which vary from game to game.

The college's Carroll B. Land Stadium, with an out-

field view of the Pacific Ocean, is no exception, and the winds often factor into games at the expense of right-handed hitting power hitters such as Wardell.

Wardell, who hit 10 home runs in his senior year at El Capitan and homered in the CIF Division II finals as a junior, had 18 hits in 55 at-bats (a .327 average) in his first 20 games at Point Loma, but the college freshman has been limited to two doubles and three home runs.

Then again, the entire team had only 19 home runs after 20

games and his figure was tied for second place on the team, while his 12 runs batted in placed him fifth after the Crusaders' win over Bellevue University Feb. 12.

"I try to consider myself a power hitter, but you try to hit the ball on the ground, line drives," said the Vaqueros' graduate, adding that on certain days it's more a power-hitters' day than ground-ball day.

Fortunately, he can also hit for average, batting .390 at El Cap his senior year, in which he was the team's most valuable player offensively, as well as a first team all-CIF selection.

He was a pitcher/outfielder and first baseman at El Capitan, but with Point Loma's needs, he's focusing on the outfield and pitching this year. Wardell has two relief pitching appearances for the Crusaders after 20 games. In three innings he's given up seven earned runs for a 21.00 ERA.

Wardell throws left-handed but bats right-handed, an unusual combination for a field player, but not unprecedented.

Major League notables who batted right and threw left include future Hall of Famer Rickey Henderson, early Blue Jays star Doug Ault, Mets legend Cleon Jones, and dead ball era star Hal Chase, whose birthday was a Grossmont Union High School District holiday this year.

"You can adjust to it. It's all right with me," said Wardell. He commented that he might work on trying to switch-hit someday, especially here, where the wind blows straight in. So, if you hit it up into the wind and it doesn't go very far, being right-handed. You just have to learn and go the other way.

Wardell started his baseball career in Lakeside National Little League and played in the Lakeside-Santee Pony League before his high school career.

He had a rough start in high school athletics; he was a fullback and punter on the freshman football team, but broke his leg punting in the second game of the season.

After that, he quit playing football, and after spending the ninth-grade baseball season on the junior varsity, he spent his final three years on the Vaqueros' varsity.

Carroll Land, Point Loma's 38-year baseball coach and a member of the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame, recruited Wardell early and aggressively.

"We were very happy that Paul came here to school," said Land. Wardell chose Point Loma because of Coach Land, who is also in the NAIA Hall of Fame, and the team.

"I like the Christian aspect of it, too," said Wardell, who attended St. Luke's Lutheran in La Mesa before attending public school at Lakeside Middle School and El Capitan.

Wardell has not yet declared a major, but hopes to stay in baseball after leaving college. He is unsure of what he hopes to do out of college, but is contemplating a career in sports medicine or psychology.

El Capitan's baseball team participated in Arizona tournaments, so out-of-town travel is not new to the freshman, but he has never flown in an airplane. He will experience that for the first time when Point Loma plays a five-game series at Hawaii Pacific University next month.

Despite his lack of previous college experience, Wardell has only missed one of his team's first 21 games.

"We're very happy with the way he's playing as a freshman," said Coach Land. "We believe he's going to improve every year, and is going to be a good pitcher, a great outfielder and hitter."

Wardell feels that he has gone from one outstanding coach to another. "I learned a



Paul Wardell

lot at El Cap. Coach Vickery gave me a good basis of fundamentals and baseball know-how."

He added, "The coach here is great and very supportive and I look forward to playing for him every day."

East County High Schools Sports Schedules

(as available)

Tuesday, March 24 - Tuesday, March 31
(check with schools for times)

Tuesday (3/24) - GYMNASTICS: Granite Hills, Helix at Valhalla. **SWIMMING and DIVING:** Boys and Girls - El Cajon Valley at Granite Hills, El Capitan at Helix, Santana at Valhalla, Grossmont at Mount Miguel, Monte Vista at West Hills (Santana pool). **BOYS TENNIS:** El Cajon Valley at Monte Vista, West Hills at Granite Hills, Helix at Grossmont, Valhalla at Santana, El Capitan at Mount Miguel. **GOLF:** Granite Hills vs. Valhalla.

Wednesday (3/25) - BASEBALL: Santana at Monte Vista, Granite Hills at El Capitan, El Cajon Valley at Helix, Valhalla at West Hills, Mount Miguel at Grossmont. **SOFTBALL:** Monte Vista at Santana, El Capitan at Granite Hills, Helix at El Cajon Valley, West Hills at Valhalla, Grossmont at Mount Miguel. **GYMNASTICS:** Monte Vista, Mount Miguel, West Hills at El Cajon Valley.

Thursday (3/26) - SWIMMING and DIVING: Boys and Girls - Valhalla at Mount Miguel, Monte Vista at Helix, Santana at El Cajon Valley, Granite Hills at El Capitan, Grossmont at West Hills (at Santana pool). **LA CROSS:** Granite Hills at Mount Carmel. **GOLF:** Granite Hills vs. Mount Miguel. **BOYS and GIRLS TRACK:** Mount Miguel at Monte Vista, Granite Hills at Valhalla, West Hills at El Cajon Valley, Grossmont at El Capitan.

Friday (3/27) - BOYS TENNIS: Monte Vista at West Hills, Grossmont at Granite Hills, Santana at Helix, El Capitan at Valhalla, Mount Miguel at El Cajon Valley. **BASEBALL:** Monte Vista at El Capitan, Granite Hills at El Cajon Valley, West Hills at Helix, Grossmont at Valhalla, Santana at Mount Miguel. **SOFTBALL:** El Capitan at Monte Vista, El Cajon Valley at Granite Hills, Helix at West Hills, Valhalla at Grossmont, Mount Miguel at Santana.

Monday (3/30) - BASEBALL: El Cajon Valley at Monte Vista, West Hills at Granite Hills, Helix at Grossmont, Valhalla at Santana, El Capitan at Mount Miguel. **GYMNASTICS:** Mount Miguel, El Cajon Valley, Granite Hills at Santana. **SOFTBALL:** Monte Vista at El Cajon Valley, Granite Hills at West Hills, Grossmont at Helix, Santana at Valhalla, Mount Miguel at El Capitan.

Tuesday (3/31) - GYMNASTICS: Grossmont, Valhalla at Monte Vista. **BOYS TENNIS:** Mount Miguel at Valhalla, Monte Vista at Helix, Grossmont at West Hills, Santana at El Cajon Valley.

East County Community College schedule

(as available)

Tuesday, March 24 - Tuesday, March 31

(Note: When Grossmont College Men's and Women's tennis teams play same school, one at home, the other away - at home only listed.)

Tuesday (3/24) - BASEBALL: Grossmont College at San Diego CC (Morley Field). **MEN'S TENNIS:** Grossmont College vs. Palomar College (Women away).

Wednesday (3/25) - MEN'S VOLLEYBALL: Grossmont College at Santa Monica CC. **SOFTBALL:** Grossmont College vs. San Diego Mesa.

Thursday (3/26) - BASEBALL: Grossmont College at San Diego Mesa. **MEN'S TENNIS:** Grossmont College vs. San Diego Mesa (Women away).

Friday (3/27) - SOFTBALL: Grossmont College vs. Palomar College. **MEN'S VOLLEYBALL:** Grossmont College vs. Santa Barbara CC.

Saturday (3/28) - BASEBALL: Grossmont College vs. Imperial Valley College. **SWIMMING and DIVING:** Grossmont College at Diving Pentathlon at Saddleback College.

Tuesday (3/31) - BASEBALL: Grossmont College at Imperial Valley College. **MEN'S TENNIS:** Grossmont College vs. Southwestern College (Women away).

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Sports Beat with Greg Eichelberger

Hello and welcome again to "Sportsbeat," where I promise to fill you in on the local and (relevant) national news. Maybe you'd like to hear about two more arrests of players from the ill-fated Fresno State basketball team. Then again, there might be those who'd like to comment on the inept NCAA women's tournament referees who gyped UCLA out of a win over Alabama.

I, however, prefer, instead, to talk about the recent benefit held to raise money for Granite Hills boys soccer coach Derek Berry, who was injured in an automobile accident last November.

About 1,500 gathered at the El Cajon school last Tuesday to pay homage to the paralyzed skipper and help raise need funds to assist in his long recovery process.

"I had taken so many things for granted (before the incident)," he said, wiping away the tears of emotion. "Then, all of a sudden, I didn't know if I would ever walk again, or even sign my name. I don't take anything for granted anymore."

Speaking of soccer (well-known to readers as a "sport" I'm not crazy about), the *Union-Tribune* chose its All-East County girls first team, so, in case you missed it, here it is again: The offense: **Beth Bowler** (Christian High - Co-Player of the Year); **Casey Loveland** (Granite Hills - Co-Player of the Year); **Shawni Flint** (El Capitan); **Ashleigh Gibson** (Valhalla); **Christy Ortiz** (Helix) and **Kelsey Bollinger** (Grossmont). The defense consists of **Natalie Taitano** (Granite Hills); **Robyjean Bishop** (Santana); **Laura Downey** (Helix); **Brianne Chamney** (El Capitan) and **Sheona Becker** (Monte Vista). The Coach of the Year was Santana's **Chico Leonard**, who led his Sultans to an 18-7-2 campaign after finishing 5-9-5 in 1996-97.

Still on the soccer bandwagon, El Capitan has announced that it has an opening for a boys and girls varsity head coach. The positions are stipend only, with no in-classroom teaching skills necessary. For details, call Vice-principal **Kurt Madden** at 443-1081.

Another school, Monte Vista, is also looking for a few good men (and/or women) to become varsity coaches in boys and girls basketball, boys and girls tennis and girls volleyball. If you think that you've got the white (SIC) stuff, give Athletic Director **Phil Poist** a ring at 660-9902.

The San Diego Flash, a wanna-be professional outdoor soccer franchise, has made it known that they are officially affiliated with the Los Angeles Galaxy of the Major League Soccer. Of course, this is what we reported about three months ago, along with the question of whether there would even be a team at all. Let's hope that the team succeeds, for all those outdoor fans who won't mind the sojourn to Southwest College to see a home game or two.

One good thing that will come out of the relationship, though, is a possible scrimmage between the Flash and the Galaxy here in San Diego sometime this summer.

On the Padres' front, it appears (and I repeat, appears) as if Mark Langston, the veteran former Angels southpaw, will be the team's fifth starter come the regular season (just a week away). If he stays healthy, then that's two left-handers in the rotation, along with right-handers Ashby, Hamilton and Kevin Brown. Is it time to order post-season tickets? Not yet, but many fans are starting to get jazzed over this year's amalgamation.

On a Spring training note, evidently the pressure of winning his ninth NL batting title or approaching 3,000 hits isn't weighing on Tony Gwynn's mind too much. In a recent Milwaukee Brewers' game, he was more disappointed that his son's high school basketball team (Poway) lost to Helix in the CIF semifinals.

By now the San Diego Gulls has won its 50th game for the second straight year. Faced with injuries, walk-outs and other distractions, even coach Steve Martinson doubted if his charges could achieve this feat. But, achieve they have, and, in a few weeks, the team enters the play-offs and the stretch drive to win its third consecutive championship. The next home game (at the Sports Arena) is Friday against Reno, and the first round of the post-season begins April 1 against the Bakersfield Fog.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, that's all I have time to write, but, as always, you can call me at 390-7103 (or E-mail ikeforum@juno.com) with any and all news pertaining to the world of leisure and recreation. Until then, though, have a great sports week.

